



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

File No. 445

Senate Bill No. 1078

Senate, April 11, 2013

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. MAYNARD of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF VEHICLES HAULING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-267a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (b) The axle weight on any axle and the gross weight of any vehicle
5 or combination of vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer or any
6 other object, including its load, may not exceed the lesser of the
7 manufacturer's axle weight rating, the manufacturer's gross vehicle
8 weight rating or the following axle and gross weight limits: (1) The
9 weight on any single axle shall not exceed twenty-two thousand four
10 hundred pounds or, in the case of axles spaced less than six feet apart,
11 eighteen thousand pounds on each axle; (2) a two-axle vehicle shall
12 comply with the axle requirements specified in subdivision (1) of this
13 subsection, and shall not exceed a maximum gross vehicle weight of
14 thirty-six thousand pounds; (3) a three-axle vehicle shall comply with

15 the axle requirements specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection
16 and shall not exceed a maximum gross vehicle weight of fifty-three
17 thousand eight hundred pounds; (4) a three-axle combination of
18 vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer shall comply with the axle
19 requirements specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection and shall
20 not exceed a maximum gross vehicle weight of fifty-eight thousand
21 four hundred pounds; (5) a four-or-more-axle vehicle or combination
22 of vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer shall comply with the
23 axle requirements specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection and
24 shall not exceed a maximum gross vehicle weight of sixty-seven
25 thousand four hundred pounds; (6) a four-or-more-axle vehicle or
26 combination of vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer where the
27 distance between the first and last axle is not less than twenty-eight
28 feet shall comply with the axle requirements specified in subdivision
29 (1) of this subsection and shall not exceed a maximum gross vehicle
30 weight of seventy-three thousand pounds; (7) the gross vehicle weight
31 of (A) a bulk milk pickup tanker, or (B) a vehicle or combination of
32 vehicle and trailer or vehicle and semitrailer hauling agricultural
33 commodities shall not exceed [ninety-nine] one hundred thousand
34 pounds, provided the weight of the bulk milk pickup tanker or such
35 vehicle or combination is permitted under the federal-aid highway
36 amendments of 1974, 88 Stat. 2281, 23 USC 101 et seq., as amended
37 from time to time; and (8) notwithstanding the provisions of this
38 subsection and subsection (e) of this section, a vehicle or combination
39 of vehicle and semitrailer may be operated on any highway or bridge
40 without a written permit, provided it is in compliance with the axle
41 requirements specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, and
42 provided such vehicle or combination is in compliance with the
43 federal-aid highway amendments of 1974, 88 Stat. 2281, 23 USC 101 et
44 seq., as amended from time to time, including the gross vehicle weight
45 limit of eighty thousand pounds and the following weight distribution
46 formula:

$$W = 500 \left(\left(\frac{LN}{N-1} \right) + 12N + 36 \right)$$

Where W = overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest five hundred pounds, L = distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N = number of axles in group under consideration, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of sixty-eight thousand pounds, provided the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
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| Section 1 | October 1, 2013 | 14-267a(b) |
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CE *Joint Favorable C/R*

TRA

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities to increase the gross vehicle weight of vehicles carrying agricultural commodities from 99,000 pounds¹ to 100,000 pounds.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ The maximum weight limit for the State of Connecticut under federal law is currently 80,000 pounds.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1078*****AN ACT INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF VEHICLES HAULING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill potentially increases the maximum allowable weight of certain commercial vehicles traveling in Connecticut. The maximum gross vehicle weight limit for Connecticut under federal law is now 80,000 pounds. Current state law allows bulk milk tankers with a gross vehicle weight of up to 99,000 pounds to travel in the state, provided federal law permits it.

The bill allows both (1) bulk milk tankers and (2) trucks hauling agricultural commodities, to have a gross vehicle weight of up to 100,000 pounds. As under current law, federal law must allow vehicles weighing this much to operate in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Federal law sets a maximum gross vehicle weight limit of 80,000 pounds, but allows higher maximum weights in states that permitted higher gross vehicle weights prior to passage of the federal law ("grandfather rights"). Connecticut does not have such grandfather rights for gross vehicle weight, and, according to the Department of Transportation, needs Congressional approval to exceed the 80,000 pound limit.

In 2010, Congress created a pilot program allowing Maine and Vermont to allow trucks with a gross vehicle weight above 80,000 pounds to operate on those states' Interstate highways (Public Law

111-117, § 194).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/14/2013)

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/27/2013)